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New Brunswick Human Rights Commission

Human Rights Day statement (06/09/11)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) - The following message was released by New Brunswick Human Rights Commission Chair Gordon L. Porter:

"On Sept. 15, New Brunswick Human Rights Day, we celebrate the 39th anniversary of New Brunswick's Human Rights Act. It is a day to reflect on the human rights progress we have made and the problems that persist, and to re-dedicate ourselves to advance human rights in New Brunswick.

"This has been a very busy year at the Human Rights Commission. In June, we hosted a national human rights conference that brought more than 200 people to Fredericton to consider some of the important human rights issues that we face today, and to hear noted speakers such as Senate Speaker Noël Kinsella, Senator Roméo Dallaire and Gwynne Dyer. The conference was very successful, and several participants took advantage of a one-day pre-conference workshop on accommodating disability in the workplace.

"In conjunction with the conference the Human Rights Commission organized a special tribute to John Peters Humphrey in the legislature, where a memorial plaque was unveiled. Dr. Humphrey, who was born and raised in Hampton, was the main drafter of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the first director of the United Nations' Human Rights Division.

"The commission also continued to pursue its mission to promote equality and eliminate discriminatory practices by enforcing the Human Rights Act and providing educational opportunities about human rights.

"Last October, the commission updated its strategic plan to put added emphasis on the important contribution that human rights can make to support the province's objective to attract and keep immigrants. The commission has also made a great deal of headway in accelerating the human rights complaint process.

"The work of human rights is never-ending, and the field of human rights is so broad that no one is untouched by it. The human rights we enjoy today would not be possible without the work of countless individuals and groups. On New Brunswick Human Rights Day, I would like to thank everyone who has worked to advance human rights in New Brunswick over the last year."

For more information, visit the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission website.

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